

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.01/224 FOR Despatch #105

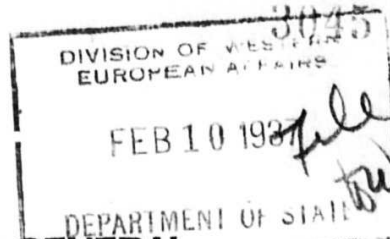
FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Dec. 2, 1936
TO NAME 1-1127

REGARDING: Construction of a port at Assab. Press announcement concerning bids by four important firms submitted to the Minister of Colonies for,--.

The press announces that four important firms have submitted competitive bids to the Ministry of Colonies for the construction of a port at Assab capable of accomodating large ships. It is estimated that the work will cost fifty million lire and take three years to complete.

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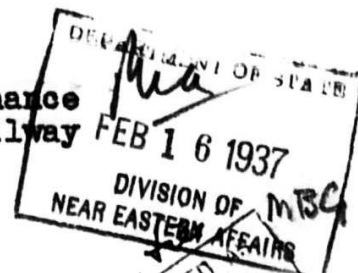


WE
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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL

Paris, France, February 1, 1937.

SUBJECT: Italian Group Seeks French Capital to Finance
Construction of a Port at Assab and a Railway
to Dessié, or Millié, in Ethiopia.



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THE SECRETARY OF STATE

WASHINGTON.

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SIR:

I have the honor to submit, as of possible interest, the translation of part of an article in LA PRESSE COLONIALE, of January 27, 1937, in connection with the agitation over the potential serious repercussions on the commerce of the French port of Djibouti, French Somaliland, and the French-owned railway from that seaport to Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, of the Italo-Ethiopian conflict.

Development of Assab.

The Italian port project at Assab, Eritrea, 155 kilometers from Addis Abeba, as reported in L'ITALIA OLTREMARE envisages the construction of an exterior protective dyke 700 meters long to cover 2 kilometers of quays provided with ultra modern equipment for discharging and loading cargo, to be completed in four years by the "Sindicato italiano Costruzioni opalti marittimi" at a cost of 80,000,000 liras.

The projected highway and railway line for which Assab will be the seaboard terminus will lead to Millié (300 kilometers) and be followed on the high plateaus

(Dessié)

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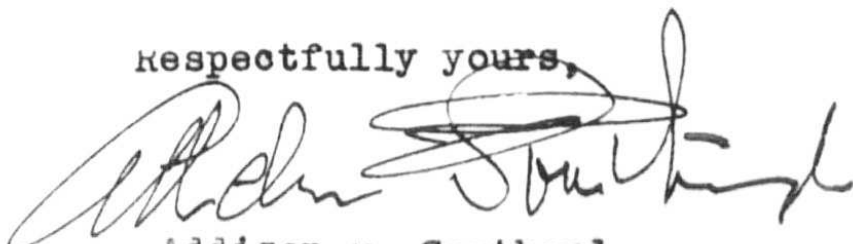
(Dessié is at 2,500 meters altitude) by a "téléférique" or overhead cable line, the construction of which has been assumed by the "Société Cerretti Ianfarri".

French Capital Sought.

According to LA PRESSE COLONIALE, a French commercial journal, the representative of a duly accredited Italian group appeared recently at one of the Paris commercial banks to inquire if they would be interested in financing a vast program of public works to be executed in Ethiopia. Invited to indicate the particulars of the projects expected to be realized, the caller made known that they applied in the first and most important instance, to the construction of the port of Assab and a railway from there to Dessié or, more precisely, to Millié which is at least 100 kilometers from the precipitous trade center. The representative further stated that before "feeling out" the bankers he had already been in touch with several groups of French industrialists and, in particular - which could be verified - that he was assured of the collaboration of a powerful metallurgical firm in the North of France, which would participate with the group guaranteeing the financing. In addition, it is believed by the writer of the article, that there are also conversations with reference to the same subject indicating Italian - German collaboration in East Africa.

A clipping of the entire article referred to is enclosed.

Respectfully yours,



Addison E. Southard
American Consul General

Enclosure: AS stated.

815.6
DBL/mg

Enclosure to despatch No.
dated February 1, 1937, from American Consul General
Addison E. Southard, Paris, France, entitled :
"Italian Group Seeks French Capital to Finance
Construction of a Port at Assab and a Railway to Dessié
or Millié, in Ethiopia."

LA PRESSE COLONIALE, January 27, 1937.

L'Italie est résolue à construire un port à Assab, et une voie de pénétration en Ethiopie

Un groupe italien cherche des capitaux en France pour réaliser ce dessein

Notre amiable confrère, M. Pierre Mille, | projets de collaboration économique italo-
dans *L'Ere Nouvelle* a écrit il y a quelques | allemande en Afrique orientale.

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NOTE

SEE 865d.01/290 FOR Despatch #383

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED May 28, 1937
TO NAME 1-1127 670

REGARDING: Maritime works- Italian East Africa.

2. Maritime Works. These include: all projects for the port of Assab, which is to become the leading port of the Empire; plans for the improvement of the port of Meroa, which is an integrating part of the organization of the banana center of Canale; finally port projects in general and the various maritime and river mooring places.

865D.1561/3

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NOTE

SEE 8651.00/22 FOR despatch #99

FROM Aden (Chipperfield) DATED Nov.6,1937.
TO NAME 1-1127 ...

REGARDING: Ports to Ethiopia.

Italians are carrying on extensive works at Assab, Eritrea, to develop the port into what will eventually be the first port of Ethiopia.

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 865d.51/16 FOR #861

FROM Italy (Phillips) DATED Apr.12, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 870

REGARDING:

Ports in Italian East Africa.

Provisions for construction of - in the 1938-39 budget.

865D.1561/5

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

SEE 751.65/444 FOR Tel. 375-8am

FROM Italy (Reed) DATED Dec. 12, 1938
TO NAME 1-1127 ***

REGARDING: Solution of the Djibouti problem. Editorial by Gayda published in the GIRONALE D' ITALIA in which he discusses the two aspects of the- political and economic.

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NOTE

SEE 800.1561/55 FOR Rep. #28

FROM Naples (Withey) DATED July 19, 1939
TO NAME 1-1127 o p o

REGARDING:

Port facilities in Italian East Africa.

Information regarding -.

lw

865 D.1561/7

Central File: Decimal File 865D.1561, Internal Affairs Of States, Public Works., Harbors., Italian East Africa, Docks . Port Facilities., December 2, 1936 - July 19, 1939. December 2, 1936 - July 19, 1939. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109731015%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 18 June 2025.